



Marine Corps Footwear Programs

Overview:

Improved Jungle-Desert Boot:

This footwear program will combine the current two boots into a single improved boot. The first phase of testing with four prototypes was completed in 3Q00. These four prototypes styles were tested around the world (Panama, 29 Palms, Okinawa, Camp Pendleton, Camp Lejeune, Peru, and the Saudi Peninsula) in both environments with five different units. The results of that testing was positive, and resulted in the single improved boot. The majority of Marines who used the early prototypes thought that the boot worked well in both the Jungle and Desert environment. This boot incorporates the cushion midsole technology used in the Infantry Combat Boot for improved comfort and injury reduction. The one-way drain holes in this combined boot allow water to be "pumped" out of the boot, without allowing sand to get in. The color of this boot has been selected to simultaneously reduce the visible light and infrared signature of Marines in both environments. Ongoing testing with this improved boot is being executed at 29 Palms and Camp Lejeune, which is a result of all comments the Marines made on the original four prototypes. The Marines intend to field this item by 1Q02.

Improved Infantry Combat Boot (ICB):

The USMC ICB was fielded in 1997, and was a significant step forward for military footwear in terms of technology insertion, comfort, and overall performance. The ICB was a one-for-one replacement for the All Leather Combat, Black, Mildew-Resistant Boot and was intended for use only in similar environments. Because of its high acceptance, Marines began to wear the boot in many environments for which it was not intended (hot and cold weather). The two primary complaints of the ICB were that it was "too hot" and "too bulky." The Product Improvement Program significantly reduced the bulk and heat retention of the current item. The Improved ICB was found to be just as comfortable and much less hot (in the laboratory and the field). This improvement has been made in the Product Description (SPEC) and will be initiated for all new ICBs.

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